

The British Medical Association
Annual report of Medical Officer of Health
"Copy" Dursley Rural

Population in 1891	12,166
Area in Acres	26,521
Inhabited houses	3,116

The district consists of 11 parishes viz. -

Carn, Coaley, Dursley, Kingswood, North Nibley,
Symphfield, Owlpen, Slimbridge, Slinchcombe
Dley, and Wotton-under-Edge.

Inspector of nuisances Mr J Robinson Silver
Street Dursley.

To the Chairman and members of the Rural
District-Council.

Gentlemen,

The rural district of Dursley is
situated on the sides and bulwarks of the
Western Cotswolds which consist largely of
the white lime-stone. Many of the houses
are built upon the hill-sides, or on the abut-
ments which run out so different distances
into the valley of the Severn. Slimbridge is
the only parish wholly situated in the valley,
so that for the most part the district is

naturally well drained. The chief streams which drain the district are the ~~Coom~~ Coom which drains Aley, Dursley, and Cann, and receives a part of the drainage of Coaley, empties itself into the Berkeley and Gloucester Canal.

The Nibley Brook which drains North Nibley, empties itself into the Malford Brook. The Dyer's Brook and Alderly Brook which unite at Kingswood these drain Bottom-under-Edge and Kingswood and joins the Wickwar Brook. The Wickwar Brook is a boundary between the Dursley Rural District, and the Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury Rural Districts.

None of these streams are used for drinking purposes by human beings.

~~water supply~~
An abundant supply of wholesome water is one of the essentials to good health. So that your Council is in touch with one of the most important questions relating to Public Health, in considering the best and most economical method of water-supply for some parts or all of Dursley. As is generally known the cottagers of Boulton Lane, The Slad, Fox Fields, Union Street and Hunger Hill besides people scattered in other parts of the town have to fetch their drinking water from the Broadwell and before 95

was out the supply for drinking purposes to the Workhouse also had to be carried from the Broadwell. Several sources were considered, and at one time it looked almost as though the supply could be got from the well at the Workhouse but an analysis was made which showed it to be not beyond suspicion, and at your request on October 24th I sampled a quantity to be sent to Dr Percy Frankland, who certified to its being polluted by soakage from a cesspool. This threw out this source as a supply. Other sources were considered as Cold Harbour, the wash from Mrs Eyre's Hydraulic Ram, and Coaley Wood. This last being the most satisfactory for one very important reason, and that is, that the town could be supplied by gravitation. It is also I believe likely to prove a most abundant supply, and I am informed that Lord Fitzhardinge has graciously consented to the use of the supply upon whose property the springs arise. The only thing I do not like about it, is that at a short distance from it, on the top of the hill is a cow yard.

It is over the white lime-stone-rocks, and cracks and crevices convey sewage matter a long way. Still as far as I know the spring Lynings great and lesser yield excellent water. Coaley has its supply from the spring Lyning, this I have examined and found most satisfactory. This supply is conveyed to the village in iron pipes laid from the spring; and stand-pipes are placed at different distances down the village. This supply is under your Council. The Cam water supply is for the present in abeyance. The Parish Council desired to utilize the waste from Mrs Eyre's Hydraulic Ram, this could have been done by little expenditure of money; but the waste being claimed by a mill owner the matter has for the present dropped.

The Histon Under-Edge water-works may be considered to be a great success. It was feared last summer, that with the prolonged drought there might be a scarcity, and so the supply was curtailed, but it proved sufficient, and having stood the test of one dry summer it may be looked upon as an established Institution. This and also the Kingswood water supply are

under your Board. All the remaining parishes in the district are supplied by springs, and deep or shallow wells, and some of these are not very satisfactory.

The disposal of sewage and sewers. The sewage of Tynsley is partly water-borne, partly dry-earth-closets, and partly the old fashioned privy-vault. The scavenging is done weekly, when the dry earth closets are emptied. The water-borne finds its way into the Cane.

One of the sewers empties into the Broadwell, and so the sewage is passed through the Pin Mill. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things. The sewers of the town are to a large extent very defective and in 1895 we had the opportunity of seeing a sample in a loose-stone-sewer passing through a tradesman's cellar, and of which he was not aware, until it became choked and burst into his cellar flooding it with slinking sewage matter. This was filled in and the sewer turned into the North-main-sewer. The sewage of Cotton-under-Edge is partly water borne, but only to a small extent. The main sewers are the Lynn Lane running from Hawsked, the Old Town sewer, a short one in the Culver-hay, a short one beginning near the bottom of Long St runs down the Steep, also a short one beginning in Church St which empties

it is into the Old Town sewer, these all empty into the Rivers Beane.

The Town is very largely supplied with dry-earth-closets; the scavenging of the Town being done weekly. The other parishes may be said to have no proper sewers; and in neither parish is there anything like a system directing to and discharging it sewage at a common outlet; so that there is no treatment of sewage in the district.

All other parts of the district are supplied with dry-earth-closets; or the privy with large vaults. This to my mind is the most objectionable of all, and especially so when a large vault is built against any part of a dwelling house. Some sewage in the parish of Coaley finding its way into a water-course, although this was not used for drinking purposes, but for supplementing the water supply from the stand-pipes, and used for house-washing. Mr. J. with Dr. Robinson met two of the members of the Parish Council on February 26th. We visited and inspected 44 places, and found three privies and a vaulted privy near or near it. These we got removed, there were also several drains from cottages emptying into the water-course instead of into cess-pools. I have inspected in different parts of the district-nuisances complained of the number of 22, The Wickwar Brook included.

These nuisances arose from kierries, gutters, pitchforks, choked drains, levers &c &c most of which were placed in the hands, or if not already there, of the Nuisance Inspector to deal with and were remedied.

En- Under sec. 30 & 22 Housing Working Classes healthy Act 1890 I with Mr. Robinson inspected a dwelling building in Golden Lane and also one in Comeley Road, Ringwood, on May 28th. These at the time were not occupied. The owner of the building in Golden Lane promised to pull it down within a month, but before that time eschewed it fell.

Under sec 46 Public Health Act 1875 I inspected a cottage in Bursley which has been remedied and one in Coaley which was satisfactory.

New November 22nd I inspected a cottage in Hunningford and was satisfied that no nuisance existed according to sec. 91 Public Health Act 1875. Three new dwellings were inspected by myself and Mr. Robinson to ascertain the water supply Public Health (water) Act 1878 sec. 36.

Water Nine samples of water were examined by me during the year.

The Lodging houses in Walton Under these were visited by us in April and again in November.

Baking- In September and October we inspected the houses. The Bakinghouses and Slaughterhouses in the house district. The Bakinghouses were 36 in number, and Slaughter not one can be said to be underground.

houses-

Infection
Disease

All were in a satisfactory condition.

The Slaughter-houses inspection were 31 there
too were in a satisfactory condition.

In addition to the above I have made 25 visits
and inspection to homes in which there has
been Infectious Disease of some kind, during
the year, making suggestions and giving
advice as to how to prevent its spread.

There were several cases of Scarletina of a
mild type in the beginning of the year
in Dursley, Coaley and Slimbridge, and
towards its end it appeared again in
Watton-under-Edge and a sharp outbreak
in Dursley of a severe type. This spread
from two centres, the origin of first doubtful,
of the second imported from Sydney. We
were not compelled to close any of it.
Public Elementary Schools during the year
in the district. It proved sufficient to ex-
-clude children from infected homes from
school.

Prosecution

There was one prosecution during the year,
of a person, who, being, in my opinion,
without a sufficient supply of wholesome
water, - it being rain water only; - refused
to lay on the water from the Watton-under-
-Edge water supply, - The case was dismissed.

Attendance
at
meetings

I attended twelve meetings of the Board
during the year.

Isolation We have in the district - no hospital for the Isolation of Infectious Diseases and in 95 I drew up two reports on the subject, the second after visiting and inspecting one of iron and one of brick. I advised your Board to approach the Gloucestershire County Council to put into force the Isolation Hospital Act 893. I also advised that if possible steps should be taken to try and form a joint-hospital for two or more districts, as on the whole it would be ^{proportionally} less expense to erect a joint-hospital, and also to work; besides it would be more likely to keep employed a staff of officials, than a small hospital for this district only. I have great confidence in early isolation as the strongest measure in preventing the spread of any Infectious Disease.

District Statistics The Estimation of the Population for the estimation of the population at all ages living at the middle of July, 895. I have adopted a down-grade scale, and that is taking the average rate of decline for the last thirty years, the loss is 38 per annum, and the estimated population is 12,005. The births exceed the deaths by 104 this is called the "Natural Increment." In this district in the past for so long a period both immigration and "Natural Increment" have

been unable to balance the loss to the district by emmigration.

Births The Vital Statistics for the year 1895 are as follows viz: - There were 293 births registered during the year, exactly the same number as registered in 1894. Of these 159 were males and 134 females there were therefore 25 more males born than females. In 1894 there were 11 more males born than females. The birth-rate for 1895 per thousand of estimated population living at all ages at the middle of the year is 24.40. This is called "the crude birth-rate" and it is exceedingly low. It was 24.3 in 1894, 24.8 in 1893. The birth rate for all England and Wales was 29.6.

Deaths The deaths registered during the year were 189. Of these 91 were males and 98 were females. The death-rate for the year per thousand according to estimated population is 15.74, in 1894 it was 15.6 in 1893 it was 16.3. The death-rate for the County in 1894 was 13.63, for all England and Wales it was 16.6. This is a low death-rate and had it not been for the high rate of Mortality in the Wotton district in the first-quarter of the year it would have been lower than 1894.

The annual death rates for the different districts are as follows: - Cirencester district - 13.33, Tetbury district - 14.20, Stroud - under - Edge 18.65. The deaths in the Wotton - under - Edge district in the first-quarter



were 42 and the death-rate per thousand according to estimated population and reckoned at annual rate was 34.04. Nor was this high rate of Mortality apparently due to epidemic disease. Five died of Apoplexy and Cerebral Haemorrhage, seven from Natural Decay, two only from Influenza with complications and nine from acute Respiratory diseases.

The deaths arranged according to Table "A" at various ages are as follows. Under one year 24, one and under five 9, five and under fifteen 5, fifteen and under twenty-five 4, twenty-five and under sixty-five 46, sixty-five and upwards 101.

Infant Mortality, -

The deaths under one year are 24, and the rate of Infant Mortality is 81.8 in 94 it was 109.2 and in 93 it was 100.8. The rate of Infant Mortality is not given in the report for the County of Gloucester for 1894. For all England and Wales it was 137. The rate of Infant Mortality is exceedingly low especially considering the district is not purely Agricultural. Infants are said to form a delicate index to the sanitary status of a population. No death occurred in an infant under one year from Diphtheria Measles, or whooping-cough. Taking for comparison the groups of ages

by far the larger number died in the period of old age: - 48 died between 70 & 80, thirty-one between 80 & 90 and two 90 and upwards. In all 81 lived to over 70 years of age. This is something like 42 per cent living to a good old age.

Lymotic Diseases -

and the seven terrible Lymotic diseases were death. the cause of death in eight persons, curiously enough the same number as in 1894. Six of these were under 5 years of age. Five of these died of Diarrhoea and one from Scarletina. Two over five years died of Diarrhoea. The Lymotic death rate per thousand of population is '66, in 94 it was '66, in 93 it was 1.78. It was not given in the report for 1894 of the County of Gloucester for all England and Wales it was in 1894 1.76. Besides the above, one died of Membranous Croup one of Puerperal Fever.

No death occurred in the district from Small-pox, Diphtheria, Typhus, Enteric Continued or Relaxing Fevers, Cholera, Cysis, Measles, Whooping-cough or Rheumatic Fever. Thirty-one deaths occurred from the acute Respiratory diseases and the death-rate is 2.5 in 1894 there were thirteen and 1

death-rate was 1.07 but by an error it was entered as 2.7. Ten died from Phthisis, eleven from Heart Disease, and four from Injuries.

Influenza commenced about the last week in February and began to subside about the end of March or beginning of April lasting roughly about six weeks. Two deaths from Influenza with complications were registered in the first quarter as occurring in Wotton-under-Edge district. Probably a factor in others especially as a complication with some form of chest disease such as Bronchitis or pneumonia. Thirteen out of the thirty-one cases of Acute Respiratory Diseases occurred in the first quarter. In the first half or six weeks of 1895, the weather was very severe, soon after the start of the Influenza and chest complaints became prevalent about the last two weeks in 1895 but no death was registered from it.

Combating the question of adopting the Act for the Compulsory Registration of the Dangerous Infectious Diseases was discussed at a meeting of the Council in December 1895. This when the motion was put to the meeting, - which was a full one - was rejected by 11 to 5. Being without this Act the contents of Table "B" are very defective as a guide to the amount of sickness there is in the

District arising from Diseases & Infections
Diseases. The only available source is
the District-Medical Officers' relief books;
and the information from this source
is very meagre, and not at all worth
the trouble it gives to transmit to me.
Other sources are doubtful and uncertain.
I may be notified of a case, I may not,
but it may come in a round-about
way, when I make enquiries. Table "B"
informs us that 41 new cases of Scarletina;
50 of Anthrax and one of Erysipelas
occurred in the district in 1895. In addition
the death certificates inform me of one
of ~~Me~~ miranensis Croup, and one of Puerperal
Fever.

Prospective Much that has been done in the past for
the Public Health much remains to be
done so that there is no lack of materials
of work with, or subjects to discuss. There
is still the Amersley Water Supply, and the
Can water supply; the provision of an
Isolation Hospital for the district or a con-
joint one for two or more districts; the

Compulsory Vaccination of Infectious
Disease besides matters of minor
importance; and as the Board of
Guardians the question of Compulsory
Vaccination.

Appended is the Annual report of work
done by Mr J Robinson Inspector of
Risances.

I remain

Your Obedient Servt

Francis Jas Joyce

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb 25th 1896

P. S. O.

Table of Deaths during the year 1895 in the Burke Pirel District -
Classified according to Sexes, Age, and Localities

med of localities
applied for the purpose
of the St. Louis; while
lions being shown
separate localities
(a)

	older five years of age
19	
20	
21	
22	
Total	
All other diseases	
Injuries	

11 Table of Population of Births and of New cases of Infectious Sickness, according to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Cheltenham Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities

		Population at All Ages		Aged under 5 or over 5		Registered Births		Aged under 5 or over 5		New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health	
(a)	Localities	in Public In- and Private Localities	1891 Census Estimated to 1895	Middle of 1895	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Quarry District	5242	5773	142	5 upwards	4	25	2	Smallpox	5	6	7
Workhouse				under 5	1			Scarlatina	8	9	10
Uley District	1926	1901	42	5 upwards				Rhinitis	11	12	13
Under 5				under 5				Membranous Croup			
5 upwards				5 upwards				Syphus			
Under 5				under 5				Tonic or Syphilitic Continued			
5 upwards				5 upwards				Relapsing			
Under 5				under 5				Puerperal			
5 upwards				5 upwards				Cholera			
Under 5				under 5				Syphilis			
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Annual Report for the Year ended December 31st 1895
Dwelling Houses

Overcrowding abated	4
Delapidated & defective repaired	1
Cleaned and disinfected	26
Water supply provided	146

Closets

New provided	2
Rebuilt or repaired	11
Cleaned	23

Drains

New provided	2
Defective remedied	20
Foul ditches cleaned	7

Other Nuisances

Offensive refuse removed	9
Pig nuisances abated	9
Offensive cesspools abated	1
Total	<u>261</u>

Number of Nuisances abated without formal notice 64

Statutory Notices served	196
Summons issued	1
Total	<u>261</u>

I have visited and inspected 95 Registered Dairies and Milkshops in this District and found them satisfactory. There have not been any Infectious Disease on either of the premises during the year.

Thomas Polunow
Sanitary Inspector.

